

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Thermoplastic resin particles for use in forming an article and coated with a coating composition, said coating composition ~~essentially~~ comprising a liquid part and a solid part; said liquid part comprising:

a) greater than 0.01% by weight based on the weight of the particles, of polyethylene glycol having an average molecular weight ranging from about 200 to about 800; and
said solid part comprising:

b) greater than 0.01% by weight based on the weight of the particles, of polyolefin wax; and

c) greater than 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the particles, of a metal salt of higher fatty acids selected from the group consisting of zinc, magnesium, calcium, and aluminum salt of stearic, lauric, and myristic acid;

wherein said polyolefin wax of component b) is polyethylene wax having a particle size ranging from about 6 microns to about 140 microns and an average molecular weight of about 650 to about 30,000 for improving at least the mechanical properties of said article.

2. (previously amended) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein the amount of a) is 0.01% to about 0.80% by weight based on the weight of the particles; the amount of b) is 0.01% to about 1.0% by weight, based on the weight of the particles; and the amount of c) is 0.01% to about 0.60% by weight, based on the weight of the particles.

3. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a) and b).
4. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a) and c).
5. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a) and d).
6. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a) and e).
7. (canceled)
8. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a), c), and d).
9. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a), b), and d).
10. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a), b), and e).
11. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a), c), and e).
12. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a), d) and e).
13. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a), b), c), and d).
14. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a), b), c), and e).
15. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a), c), d), and e).

16. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a), b), d), and e).

17. (withdrawn) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said coating composition consists of a), b), c), d), and e).

18. (previously amended) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 2 wherein said coating composition comprises: a) polyethylene glycol in an amount of 0.30% by weight based on the weight of the particles; b) polyethylene wax in an amount of about 0.40% by weight, based on the weight of the particles; and c) a metal salt of higher fatty acids in an amount of about 0.105% by weight, based on the weight of the particles.

19. (canceled)

20. (previously amended) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said metal salt of higher fatty acids is selected from the group consisting of calcium stearate and zinc stearate.

21. (original) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 20 wherein said metal salt of higher fatty acids is zinc stearate.

22. (original) Thermoplastic resin plastics of claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic particles are homopolymers derived from vinyl aromatic monomers selected from the group consisting of styrene, isopropylstyrene, alpha-methylstyrene, nuclear methylstyrenes, chlorostyrene, and tert-butylstyrene.

23. (original) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic resin particles are expandable polystyrene particles.

24. (canceled)

25. (original) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said polyethylene glycol of a) ranges in an amount

from about 0.05% by weight to about 0.80% by weight, based on the weight of the particles and has an average molecular weight of 400.

26. (original) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said components of said solid part of said coating components are dry mixed together and then dry blended with said thermoplastic particles.

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (previously amended) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said particles are coated with said coating composition in an amount ranging from about 0.005% to about 2.0% by weight, based on the weight of the thermoplastic resin particles.

30. (withdrawn) A foam container made from the thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1.

31. (withdrawn) A molded article made from the thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1.

32. (withdrawn) A coating composition, comprising components selected from the group consisting of 1) a liquid part and 2) a solid part;

said liquid part comprising:

a) greater than 0.01% by weight based on the weight of the particles, of polyethylene glycol having an average molecular weight ranging from about 200 to about 800;

said solid part comprising components selected from the group consisting of:

b) greater than 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the particles, of polyolefin wax;

c) greater than 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the particles, of a metal salt of higher fatty acids;

d) greater than 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the particles, of polyethylene glycol having an average

molecular weight ranging from about 900 to about 10,000;
and

e) greater than 0.1% by weight, based on the weight of the particles, of ethylene bis-stearamide; and combinations thereof.

33. (withdrawn) The coating composition of claim 32 wherein the amount of a) is 0.01% to about 0.80% by weight based on the weight of the particles; the amount of b) is 0.01% to about 1.0% by weight, based on the weight of the particles; the amount of c) is 0.01% to about 0.60% by weight, based on the weight of the particles; the amount of d) is 0.1% to about 0.80% by weight, based on the weight of the particles; and the amount of e) is 0.1% to 1.0% by weight, based on the weight of the particles.

34. (withdrawn) A coating composition of claim 32 wherein said coating composition consists of a) and c).

35. (withdrawn) A coating composition of claim 32 wherein said coating composition consists of a), c), and d).

36. (withdrawn) A coating composition of claim 32 wherein said coating composition consists of a), b), and c).

37. (withdrawn) A coating composition of claim 32 wherein said coating composition consists of b) and c).

38. (withdrawn) A coating composition of claim 32 wherein said coating composition consists of a), c), and e).

39. (withdrawn) A coating composition of claim 32 wherein said coating composition comprises: a) in an amount of 0.30% by weight based on the weight of the particles; b) in an amount of about 0.40% by weight, based on the weight of the particles; and c) in an amount of about 0.105% by weight, based on the weight of the particles.

40. (withdrawn) A coating composition of claim 32 wherein said metal salt of higher fatty acids is selected

from the group consisting of zinc, magnesium, calcium and aluminum salt of stearic, lauric and myristic acid.

41. (withdrawn) A coating composition of claim 40 wherein said metal salt of higher fatty acids is selected from the group consisting of calcium stearate and zinc stearate.

42. (withdrawn) A coating composition of claim 41 wherein said metal salt of higher fatty acids is zinc stearate.

43. (withdrawn) A coating composition of claim 32 wherein said polyethylene glycol of a) of said coating composition ranges in an amount from about 0.050% by weight to about 0.80% by weight, based on the weight of the particles and has an average molecular weight of 400.

44. (withdrawn) A coating composition of claim 32 wherein said polyolefin wax is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene wax and polypropylene wax.

45. (withdrawn) A coating composition of claim 44 wherein said polyolefin wax is polyethylene wax.

46. (withdrawn) A method for improving the resistance to leakage of a foam container made with expandable thermoplastic resin particles, the steps comprising:

applying a coating composition of claim 32 to expandable thermoplastic resin particles, and including the step of applying component a) of said coating composition to said expandable thermoplastic resin particles and adding a combination of components b) through e) to said thermoplastic resin particles.

47. (withdrawn) A method for improving the resistance to leakage of a foam container made with expandable thermoplastic resin particles, which are formed into pre-expanded thermoplastic resin particles, the steps comprising:

applying a coating composition of claim 32 to said pre-expanded thermoplastic resin particles, and including the step of optionally applying component a) of said coating composition to said pre-expanded thermoplastic resin particles and adding a combination of components b) through e) to said pre-expanded thermoplastic resin particles.

48 (previously presented) Thermoplastic resin particles of claim 1 wherein said polyethylene wax of component b) has a particle size ranging from about 6 microns to about 60 microns and an average molecular weight of 1,000.